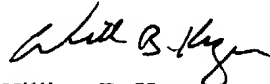


Appl No. 09/868,276
Amdt. dated May 17, 2004
Notice of Allowance dated 02/19/04

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicants respectfully request entry of the present amendment. Claim 1 has been amended to remove the recitation of "N(R¹⁰)₂," as a member of the Markush listing for R¹. Applicants respectfully note that PCT application WO 98/22619, cited by Applicants and considered by the Office, names a 5-amidino-2-(2-aminophenyl)-benzimidazole. Applicants have addressed this disclosure by removing all compounds having an amino group at the equivalent position. Other minor amendments were made to cure typographical or formal errors that do not touch the merits. Applicants believe no new matter is presented.

Respectfully submitted,



William B. Kezer
Reg. No. 37,369

TOWNSEND and TOWNSEND and CREW LLP
Two Embarcadero Center, Eighth Floor
San Francisco, California 94111-3834
Tel: 925-472-5000
Fax: 415-576-0300

WBK:jkh
60215774 v1